REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

I. Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. Claim 13 has been cancelled by this reply. Additionally, claim 16 has been added by this reply. Claims 1-12 have been amended to more clearly recite the present invention and to correct spelling errors. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments. Claims 1 and 16 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

II. Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 102

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,311,204 ("Mills"). Claim 13 has been cancelled in this reply. Thus, this rejection is now moot. Independent claim 1 has been amended in this reply to clarify the present invention recited. Further, the newly added claim 16 is of similar scope to claim 1. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claim 1 and the newly added claim 16, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Present Invention

As recited in claim 1, the present invention relates to a decoder for a digital audiovisual transmission system. The decoder includes a processor and a memory. The

processor decompresses and displays compressed digital picture data. In particular, the processor is adapted to decompress image file in it substantially original format and store the decompressed image in the memory. Additionally, the processor converts the image file (in its substantially original format) to at least a second format for display. Further, the first (the original format) and the second format versions of the image file are stored contemporaneously in memory. As stated in the amended claim 1, the converting is based on a capacity of the memory and an operation of the processor.

In another aspect, the invention relates a method for processing a digital image in a decoder for a digital audiovisual transmission system. The method includes decompressing compressed digital picture data and preparing decompressed data for display. The method further includes storing the decompressed data in its substantially original format and, subsequently, converting the decompressed data in its substantially original format to at least a second format for display, based on a capacity of a memory of the decoder and the processing. Finally, the method includes storing the second format version of the image file with the original format version of the image file contemporaneously in the memory.

The Prior Art v. The Present Invention

Advantageously, in one or more embodiments of the present invention, converting based on the capacity of the memory and the operation of the processor allows the quality of images to be maintained. Processors in decoders tend to have limited memory and "processing power." Accordingly, these processors typically decompress and store image files in a fixed formats to accommodate the memory and processing constraints. One

skilled in the art will appreciate that converting an image results in loss of image quality. However, the present invention bases the conversion of the original format to a second format on the current capacity of the memory and operation of the processor. In other words, if it is possible to display an image file in its substantially original format in view of the memory and the processor constraints, the processor displays the image "as is." On the other hand, if the display cannot be effected using the original format, the processor may convert the image in view of the memory and the processing constraints. Therefore, the present invention enables the highest quality display to be effected at any time within the memory and processing constraints of the decoder at that moment (pp. 3-4 of the instant specification).

Mills

Mills does not disclose all of the elements of the present invention. In fact, Mills is directly aligned with the prior art. In particular, Mills teaches a processor for a decoder, which systematically and unintelligently converts audiovisual data. For example, in the summary of invention, Mills states, "The RGB pixel data for a given pixel are first converted to luminance and chrominance data for that pixel" (col. 2, ll. 22-25). In another example, Mills states, "[i]n an exemplary embodiment, a method and apparatus are provided for converting an input data streaming , including a sequence of input data blocks into a converted stream suitable for addressing a look-up table" (col. 2, ll. 45-48). Further, in reference to the graphics processors, Mills states, "[t]he decoders 52,54 convert the elementary streams into decode video and –audio data signals, respectively, using conventional techniques" (col. 10, ll. 33-35). Mills is completely

silent to "convert[ing] the image file to at least a second format for storage and display *based on a capacity of the memory and an operation of the processor*," as recited in amended claim 1 and newly added claim 16.
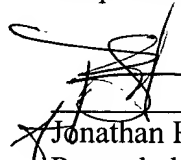
Because Mills does not disclose all of the elements of the claims, Mills cannot anticipate the present invention as recited in claims 1 and 16. Therefore, claims 1 and 16 are patentable over Mills. Additionally, the dependent claims 2-12 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 11345.020001).

Respectfully submitted,

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9